

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

NOTICE

The recessed public hearing meeting of September 14th of the **Law Enforcement and Corrections Committee** of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County will reconvene on **Monday, October 2, 2006**, at the hour of **1:00 P.M.** in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to consider the following:

281408 A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING ITS OFFICIAL SUPPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR OF PRIVATE BILL HR 3856, THE FAMILY UNITY ACT (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by Roberto Maldonado, County Commissioner.

I am submitting the attached Resolution as a New Item at the September 7, 2006 Board meeting to be referred to the committee on Law Enforcement and Corrections for a public hearing. The Resolution declares Cook County "A Sanctuary County", a county that defends that basic human rights and dignity of undocumented immigrants and stands in solidarity with local governments across the nation who have declared themselves "Sanctuaries." Furthermore, the Resolution prohibits Cook County Departments and the Sheriff's Office from inquiring about immigration status and unilaterally enforcing immigration law provisions, to the extent allowed by law.

The following is a synopsis of the Proposed Resolution:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Cook be declared "A Sanctuary County," a county that defends the basic human rights and dignity of undocumented immigrants and our democratic principles of life, liberty, and justice, and all those who, as Emma Lazarus wrote in her famous sonnet that now is engraved on a plaque at the Statue of Liberty, are "tired...poor...[and]...yearn to breathe free..." and recognizes that much of the historical and moral tradition of our nation is rooted in the provision of sanctuary to those seeking a safe haven from oppression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Cook supports the humanitarian efforts of Reverend Walter Coleman, who, in good faith, has opened the doors of the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Cook County to provide sanctuary to Elvira Arellano and her U.S. citizen son and who are prepared to accept the penalty for this act of civil disobedience in the hope that this violation of current immigration law will lead to comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rights of immigrants as families, workers, and human beings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Cook stands in solidarity with local governments across the nation who have declared themselves "Sanctuaries" upholding the basic human rights of immigrants, including the cities of San Francisco, Maywood, Huntington Park and Coachella in California and the City of Cambridge in Massachusetts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Cook joins several major cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and others who have official policies prohibiting their municipal agencies from inquiring about immigration status and unilaterally enforcing immigration law provisions, and hereby requires that no Cook County employee or department, to the extent legally possible, will request information about or otherwise assist in the investigation of the citizenship status of any County resident, will disseminate information regarding the

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citizenship of a County resident, or condition the provision of County of Cook services or benefits on matters related to citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that requiring, or promoting, local enforcement of immigration laws gives rise to an increased threat of immigrant and minority profiling and harassment and, therefore, it is the policy of the Cook County Sheriff's Office not to become involved in the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws to the extent legally possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be called upon to issue a moratorium on raids until the U.S. Congress comes to an agreement on comprehensive immigration reform so that the debate can be carried out in good faith, rather than against a backdrop of fear, repression and intimidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Cook rejects the use of the word "illegal" to describe human beings and the use of the word "aliens" to describe immigrants, which has a dehumanizing effect and helps justify policies that seek to criminalize and exclude immigrants, and hereby adopts the language "undocumented" when referring to those who do not have federally recognized resident status and "immigrant" to refer to those who have migrated to the U.S. from another country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its official support earlier this year of private bill HR 3856, the Family Unity Act, which protects 35 Illinois families from being torn apart by our broken immigration laws, and reaffirms its official support in 2005 of "The Secure America Act" which allows families to be reunited more quickly through the family immigration system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Illinois Congressional delegation and to President George Bush on behalf of the entire Cook County Board.

***Referred to the Committee on Law Enforcement and Corrections on September 7, 2006.**

Michelle Harris, Secretary

Chairman: Maldonado
Vice-Chairman: Silvestri
Members: Butler, Gorman, Moreno, Peraica, Quigley